

The SWVA POINT

Spring 2013

Spring Drug Take Back Activities

Thanks to approximately 70 Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps members, including many of the County Captains, this Unit was able to staff eighteen Drug Take Back sites throughout the region. According to the report from the Virginia State Police, over 1,700 pounds of prescription drugs and Over-the-Counter medications were brought in for disposal by the DEA.

It was very exciting to expand the coverage area this spring, in part because of the partnership that was formed with K-VA-T Foods who worked with the SWVA MRC to include many of their store pharmacies in this public health activity.

As this Drug Take Back event has grown over the past three years, the comments that are frequently heard in the post-event evaluation is more advertisement and promotion is needed. If members cannot help at a Take Back site, then please consider helping to raise the awareness when the fall event is scheduled. Help put up posters in pharmacies, churches, schools and food marts. **The goal is 2,000 pounds in the fall.**



Current Volunteer Count SWVA MRC (as of 5/23/2013)

Physicians	13
Physician Assistants	2
Nurses	515
Nurse Practitioners	15
Pharmacists	32
Dentists	9
Veterinarians	5
Mental Hlth Professionals	71
EMS Professionals	84
Respiratory Therapists	6
Other Public Hlth/Med.	81
Other Non-Public Hlth/Med.	195

Upcoming Training In July

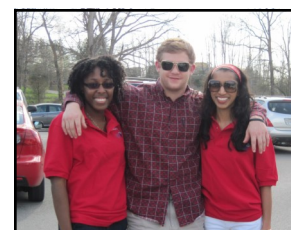
The Crisis Center has offered to provide free suicide awareness training to SWVA MRC members. Thanks to those who responded to the survey last week. Those responses help to determine when and where to offer the 3-hour courses. Please check the website and Facebook for specific dates, times and locations. The first sessions will be conducted in July.

SWVA MRC Works a NASCAR Event!



During the weekend of the NASCAR races in Martinsville, Virginia Medical Reserve Corps units from the Western Region were asked to support the West Piedmont MRC to staff the Fan Care Center inside Martinsville Raceway. The Fan Care Center was supported by Carillion Health Systems. Kemberly Campbell, Registered Nurse of Wytheville, Virginia, jumped at the chance to take

on this exciting volunteer opportunity and worked in the Fan Care Center on Saturday. This Regional MRC response was highlighted as a National MRC Activity in the April report from the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps.



**UVA/WISE
volunteers
participated in
Project Sticker
Shock in April!**

Kristina K. Morris, Volunteer Coordinator

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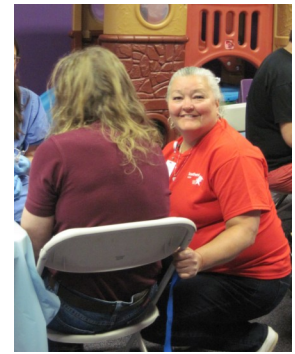
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Trail Days 2013 For the second year, the SWVA MRC was invited to participate in the First Aid Tent sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Damascus during the annual Trail Days Celebration. For two days, SWVA MRC volunteers provided Blood Pressure Checks, BMI Evaluations, TDaP vaccinations and basic First Aid to over 200 hikers, bikers and citizens. On Saturday, U. S. Senator Tim Kaine stopped by to thank the volunteers for their time and service. One written quote from a hiker, *"Medical staff is super nice and helped superbly(sic)"* Another outstanding job done by the SWVA MRC.



Clinch Valley Medical Center Supports the SWVA MRC

The Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps was thrilled to receive support from Clinch Valley Medical Center to purchase t-shirts for volunteers to wear during deployments. Thanks also to the United Way Virginia Highlands for assisting with the order and delivery of the shirts. As is evident from the pictures made this spring, it certainly is nice to see so many red shirted volunteers with big smiles. Please take the opportunity to thank the employees and staff of Clinch Valley Medical Center for this kind and generous contribution to the local SWVA MRC. It is partnerships like this that strengthen this Unit.



Christine Branham of Pound was not only on hand to help The Health Wagon with a free clinic on May 15th, but she was also giving out BIG SMILES!! Thanks, Christine

County Captains— The Co. Captains did a great job during an emergency deployment on Easter Sunday, Drug Take Back and Trail Days. If you would like to join this exciting leadership team, please contact Kristina Morris to discuss and obtain an application.

Social Media Team— If there are volunteers interested in assisting with Blog writing, Pinterest development, Twitter, etc. , now is the time to become involved. Contact Kristina Morris ASAP!

Celebrate Service
National Volunteer Week
April 21 - 27, 2013

To celebrate the accomplishments of MRC volunteers in the Western Region for the Virginia Department of Health, volunteers from all seven units were nominated in four categories for service which was provided for the past 12 months. *"The Best of the West"* nominations were reviewed by a panel of VDH employees. Several members of the Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps were recognized for their service.

Janie McGlocklin, RN from Meadowview, was selected as the "Best of the West" for her commitment to Training and Exercises. Honorable Mentions were received by Phil Ernst, RN from Abingdon, for his Emergency Deployment service; Kimberly Rose, CNA from Hillsville, for her Public Health Service; and Paru Gopalan from Big Stone Gap for her Administrative Support. Congratulations to these and all of the other winners from throughout the Western Region of VDH. Volunteer service is celebrated each and every day!

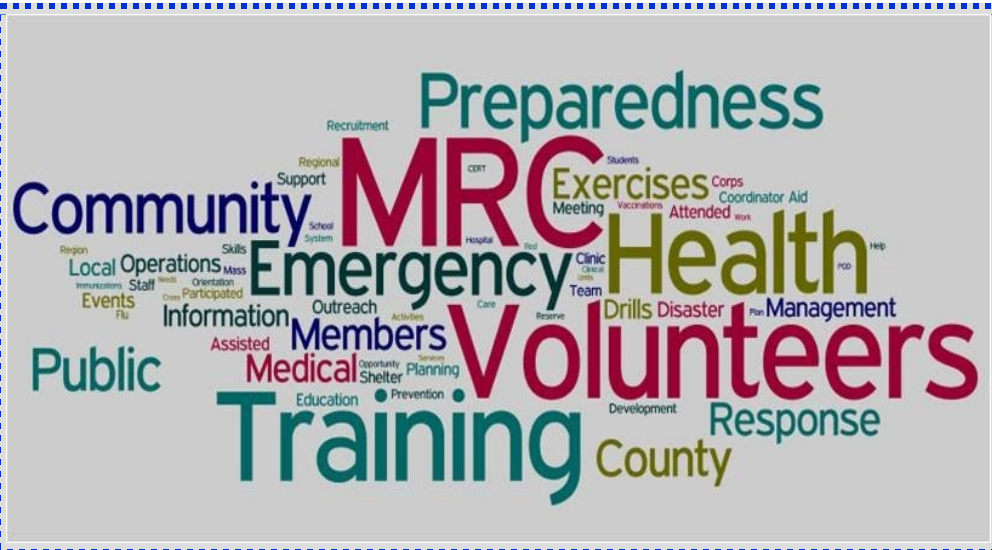
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Easter Sunday 2013 On Easter Sunday, March 31st, a 90 car accident occurred on Interstate 77 in Carroll County. Numerous victims were transported to local hospitals and many travelers found themselves stranded in Hillsville without a vehicle. The Woods River Chapter of the American Red Cross set up a shelter in Hillsville and the Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps received a request for mental health care professionals to attend to the needs of those traumatized by the accident. Susan Austin, Jim Bangle, Michael Cobler and Barbara Farmer answered the late evening deployment alert and were in route to Hillsville within an hour of receiving the alert. Fortunately, the Red Cross and Carroll Co. Department of Social Services were able to close the shelter by 10:00 p.m. as travelers found other means of transportation or choose to stay in a hotel.

It was extremely gratifying to be able to secure volunteer service in such a short period of time and that volunteers knew how to answer the alert from the Virginia Volunteer Health System. Lesson learned from one volunteer — make sure your ID badge is with you and not locked up in your office! Thanks to all for the help and the support.

Another Donation Received

After the Easter Sunday deployment, a fan and supporter of the Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps made a generous donation of supplies to the Unit. Included in this donation was one shelter go-bag which includes a collapsible cot, MRC vests, emergency medical supplies packs and MRC go-bags for the County Captains. Thanks are being sent to the benefactor with the appreciation of the entire Unit.



May 2013—Unbelievable

When I started working on the spring newsletter, I became absolutely overwhelmed by volunteer accomplishments over the past 2 1/2 months. This Unit has been so busy that it was necessary to add an entire third page to the newsletter!

Whew --- is anyone else tired?????

Hats off to all of the volunteers who have contributed in some manner during the past several months. I don't want to forget Harry Brill and Lisa Martin working on Family Fun Day at Emory & Henry,; the Advisory Committee for their patience with rescheduling meetings; and my support team –The County Captains!

I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day weekend and is preparing for summer.

Kristina

Notice from The Health Wagon:

"Our RAM event is scheduled for July 19, 20 and 21 at Wise County Fair grounds! We are in dire need for general support volunteers! Please call 276-328-8850 or 276-926-2260 for more information."